

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 INRE-00 RSR-01 OMB-01 /070 W

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O R 170900Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6103

INFO DOD

AMCONSUL NAHA

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10576

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: MOPS/J

SUBJECT: SR-71

1. AP CARRYING STORY, CITING DOD BRIEFING BY GENERAL JAMES, THAT US FLYING RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER CAMBODIA. AP ACCOUNT SAYS THAT FOLLOWING BRIEFING IT WAS LEARNED THAT PLANES WERE OKINAWA BASED SR-71S.

2. UP CITES "PENTAGON SOURCES" AS IDENTIFYING PLANES AS OKINAWAN BASED SR-71S.

3. KYOTO NEWS NHK, YOMIURI AND TOKYO SHIMBUN, CITING AP STORY, ALSO QUOTE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS SAYING THAT WHILE MINISTRY HAS NO INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER, RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONSULTATION. OPPOSITION PARTIES QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THEY WILL QUESTION GOJ AT DIET SESSION EXPECTED TO RESUME NEXT WEEK; OKINAWA REFORMIST GROUPS HAVE "RECEIVED A GREAT SHOCK" AND REGARD THIS AS INDICATING U.S. MAKING OKINAWA A MAIN PILLAR OF U.S. FAR EASTERN MILITARY STRATEGY. REFORMIST GROUPS, ACCORDING TO PRESS AND NHK, INTEND TO PROTEST TO U.S. AUTHORITIES AND DEFENSE AGENCY WITH
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REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF SUCH FLIGHTS.

FYI YOMIURI CARRIED STORY ON FRONT PAGE WITH HEADLINES SAYING U.S. RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER CAMBODIA -- TAKE OFF FROM OKINAWA -- UNPARALLELED CASE -- FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERNED -- MATERIAL FOR ATTACK BY OPPOSITION PARTIES.

4. EMBASSY EXPECTS ADDITIONAL NEWS PLAY IN SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS. ALSO EXPECTS PRESS QUERIES. WE ARE STICKING TO APPROVED GUIDANCE WHICH (A) ACKNOWLEDGES THERE ARE SR-71 AIRCRAFT IN JAPAN (B) THAT SMALL DETACHMENT OPERATES FROM TIME TO TIME FROM KADENA (C) FURTHER STATES WE DO NOT DISCUSS OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THESE AIRCRAFT AND (D) GOJ AWARE THAT OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT IS CONSISTENT WITH OBJECTIVES OF SECURITY TREATY.

5. HOWEVER, URGENTLY NEED DETAILS ON DOD BRIEFING AS WELL AS ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR GOJ AND PRESS.

DECONTROL AUGUST 17, 1983
SHOESMITH

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NNN

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